CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1.   A method for efficiently merging subnets comprising the steps of:

linking a first subnet having a first subnet manager and a first database with a second subnet having a second subnet manager and a second database to create a merged subnet; and

dynamically selecting one of said first subnet manager and said second subnet manger as a master subnet manager, which controls the merged subnet.

2.   The method of Claim 1, wherein said first and second database comprise configuration entries including a partition key (P_Key) and a global unique identifier (GUID), which are time-stamped with a time said configuration entries are modified by respective ones of said first and second subnet managers.

3.   The method of Claim 2, wherein said first subnet manager is selected as said master subnet manager, said method further comprising the step of:

absorbing said subnet configuration entries from said database of the other subnet manager to said database of said master subnet manager to create a merged database.

4.   The method of Claim 3, wherein said absorbing step further comprises the steps of:

determining that a first GUID entry of said second database is the same as a second GUID entry of said first database; and

in response to said determining step, selecting a latest time-stamped GUID entry from among said first GUID entry and said second GUID entry as a representative GUID entry for said merged database.

5.   The method of Claim 4, further comprising the step of discarding a GUID entry not selected as said representative GUID entry.

6.   The method of Claim 4, wherein said absorbing step further comprises the steps of:

determining that a first P_Key entry of a GUID of said second database of said other subnet manager is the same as a second P_key entry of a different GUID of said first database;

in response to said determining step, changing all occurrences of said P_Key in said second database to a new P_Key value.

7.   The method of Claim 6, wherein said changing step further comprises the step of selecting only a P-Key value that is not one of said P_Key values within said first database and said second database.

1   8.   The method of Claim 3, further comprising the step of

2   configuring said merged subnet utilizing said master subnet

3   manager.

9.   A computer program product comrpising:

a computer readable medium; and

program instructions on said computer readable medium
for:

linking a first subnet having a first subnet manager
and a first database with a second subnet having a second
subnet manager and a second database to create a merged
subnet; and

dynamically selecting one of said first subnet manager
and said second subnet manger as a master subnet manager,
which controls the merged subnet.

10.   The computer program product of Claim 9, wherein said
first and second database comprise configuration entries
including a partition key (P_Key) and a global unique
identifier (GUID), which are time-stamped with a time said
configuration entries are modified by respective ones of
said first and second subnet managers.

11.   The computer program product of Claim 10, wherein said
first subnet manager is selected as said master subnet
manager, said program product further comprising program
instructions for:

absorbing said subnet configuration entries from said
database of the other subnet manager to said database of
said master subnet manager to create a merged database.

12. The computer program product of Claim 11, wherein said absorbing instructions further comprises program instructions for:

determining that a first GUID entry of said second database is the same as a second GUID entry of said first database; and

in response to said determining step, selecting a latest time-stamped GUID entry from among said first GUID entry and said second GUID entry as a representative GUID entry for said merged database and discarding an older time-stamped entry.

13. The computer program product of Claim 12, further comprising program instructions for discarding a GUID entry not selected as said representative GUID entry.

14. The computer program product of Claim 12, wherein said absorbing instructions further comprises program instructions for:

determining that a first P_Key entry of a GUID of said second database of said other subnet manager is the same as a second P_key entry of a different GUID of said first database;

in response to said determining step, changing all occurrences of said P_Key in said second database to a new P_Key value.

15. The computer program product of Claim 14, wherein said changing instructions further comprises program instructions for selecting only a P-Key value that is not one of said P_Key values within said first database and said second database.

16. The computer program product of Claim 11, further comprising program instructions for configuring said merged subnet utilizing said master subnet manager.

17.   A system comprising:

a first subnet with a first subnet manager and a first database of subnet entries;

a second subnet with a second subnet manager and a second database of subnet entries, wherein said second subnet is coupled to said first subnet;

logic components for selecting a master subnet manager from among said first subnet manager and said second subnet manager; and

software logic associated with said master subnet manager for merging said first database and said second database.

18.   The system of Claim 17, wherein:

said first subnet manager is said master subnet manager; and

said first subnet manager absorbs configuration entries from said second database into said first database to create a merged database.

19.   The system of claim 18, wherein said first subnet manager controls and managers said system utilizing said merged database.

20.   The system of Claim 17, wherein said first subnet manager determines when a first GUID entry in said first

database is the same as a second GUID entry in said second database and dynamically selects a latest time-stamped entry from among both of said first and second GUID entries for inclusion in said merged database and discarding an older time-stamped entry.